

Meeting with your Legislator

Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education



Art Delaune, Chair

February 2017 Council Meeting

Before The Meeting

- ⦿ Make sure that you have everything you need:
 - Your Folder with Positions & Talking Points
 - Business Cards
 - Camera
- ⦿ Find the ***team leader*** for your group
 - The team leader is in charge of bringing the legislator's packet
- ⦿ Decide ***who*** will discuss each topic
- ⦿ Arrive 5-10 minutes early
- ⦿ Check in with the legislator's staff

In The Meeting

- ⦿ Introduction
- ⦿ Give the legislative packet to the legislator
- ⦿ Explain the issues
 - No more than 5 minutes per issue
- ⦿ When you are done talking, ask for a group photo with the legislator
- ⦿ Thank them for their time & support of the Council

Introductions



- Mention if you live in his/her district
- Make a personal connection, if any
 - <http://akleg.gov/> Provides some basic information on both members of the House & Senate
- Explain why you are involved with the Council

Explaining The Issues

- ⦿ Locate the information on the issue in the packet
- ⦿ Briefly describe the issue using talking points
- ⦿ Ask for their support
- ⦿ Ask if they have questions or if they need more information and let them know that one of the Council's staff will be contacting them.

Meeting Do's & Don'ts

Do

- Turn off your phone
- Stay on topic
- Watch your time
- Pay attention to the legislator/team members
- Take notes on things to follow up on
- Show appreciation

Do Not

- Bring up unrelated topics
- Speak too long
- Provide answers to questions you don't know
- Interrupt legislator or other group members
- Text/talk on the phone
- Argue with the legislator

After the Meeting

- ⦿ All teams go to the REACH art studio after the meeting to debrief
- ⦿ Debrief with GCDSE staff member
 - Was the legislator for/against any Council priorities?
 - Was any follow-up information requested?
 - Did you learn any interesting facts about the legislator/legislative aide?
- ⦿ Complete the feedback form found in your packet
 - Return to Ric or Kristin when you debrief
- ⦿ Text any photos with the legislator to Kristin so that we can post on our Facebook page — **Kristin's cell: 907-342-9781**

Keys to Successful Meetings

- ◎ If you have a smart phone, take a photo of the appointment schedule
 - You can even enter the meeting information in your phone's calendar to create a reminder
- ◎ Review position papers
 - Do you feel comfortable explaining each issue?
- ◎ Read legislator bios
 - Which legislators are you meeting with?
- ◎ Practice talking points out loud
 - Have you adapted them to be your own?



Legislative Packets

- ⦿ Position Papers
- ⦿ Alaska ABLE Accounts Flyer
- ⦿ GCDSE FY16 Annual Report
- ⦿ DD Infographic
- ⦿ SILC infographic



Questions:

